DECLASSIFIED

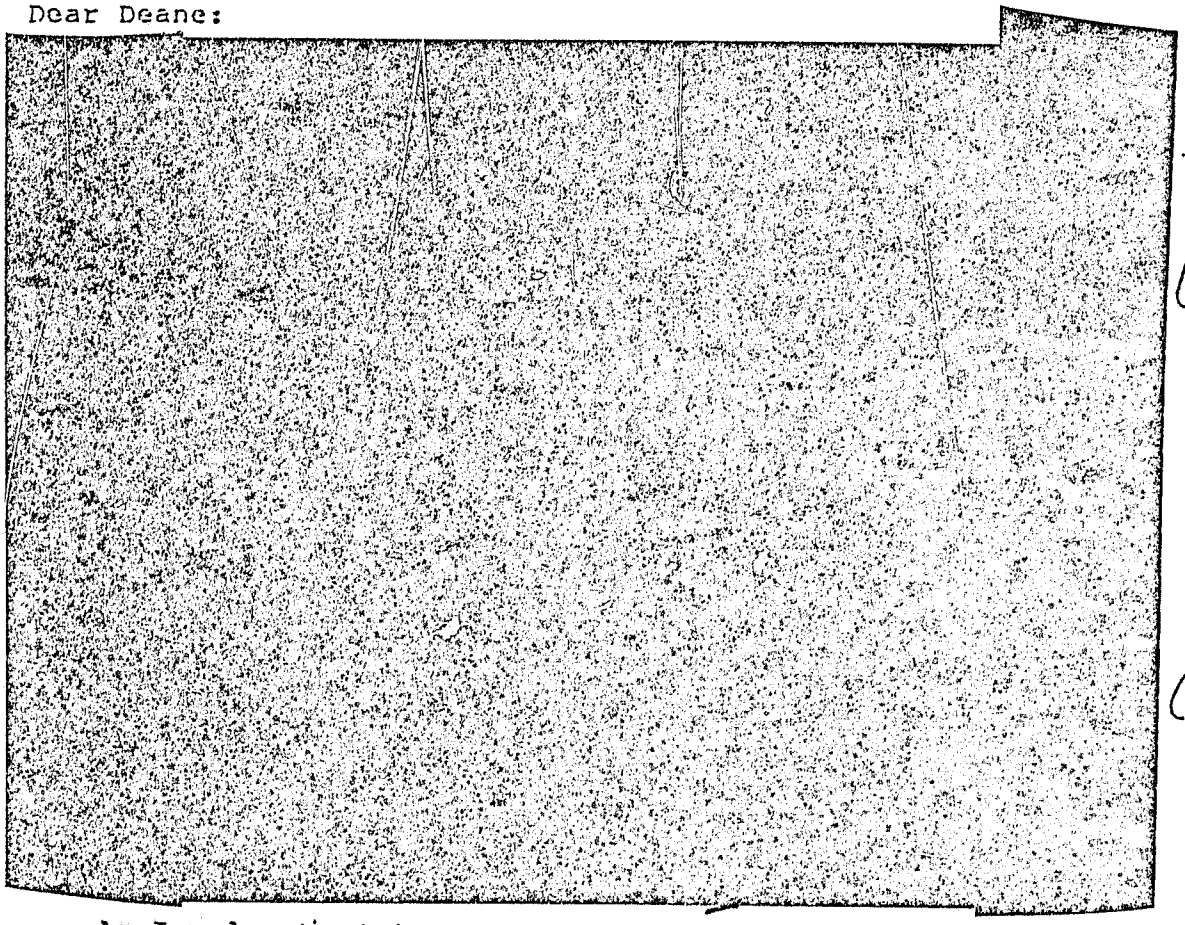
January 27, 1982

EXCISE

~~C-90~~ (E)

C-131

Dear Deane:



(b)(5)

(b)(5)

As I understand it, you were asked some questions during a press conference of January 13 about the Sullivan case and responded accurately that the letter received in October appeared to be part of an extortion attempt. Unfortunately, the enclosed UPI story, which was carried in several papers as well as the New York Times, quoted you as saying that both letters were considered extortion attempts. Immediately upon seeing this article both the family and Congresswoman Roukema's office called us, upset over what they perceived

The Honorable
Deane R. Hinton,
American Ambassador,
San Salvador,
El Salvador.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 11/29/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED [illegible]
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS (b)(5)

Received a telephone

Latin America, in Miami, Florida, who asked me what I could tell him about

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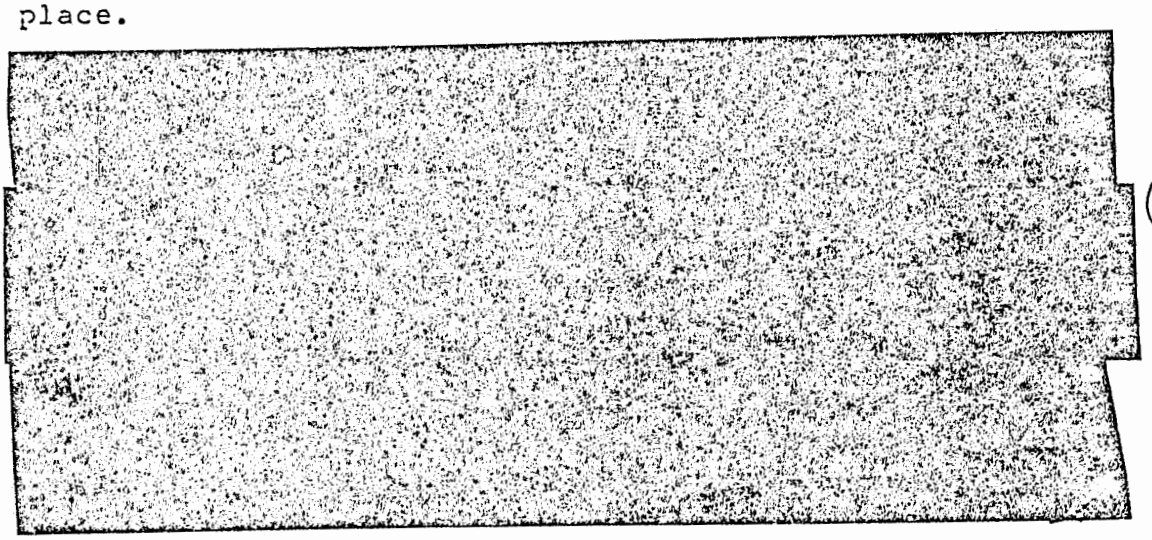
as an abrupt decision to write the second letter off as another extortion attempt. Although we called the Embassy immediately, it was not until January 18 that we had in hand the text of your statement and were able to explain to the family what had actually transpired. By this time, however, the letter to the Secretary was on its way and the damage, including some CBS television coverage, was done.

Last week Roukema's office again called the Citizens Emergency Center (EMR) to inquire if someone at the Embassy had stated publicly that the Embassy had recently received a phone call from the author of the first two letters. One of the EMR officers immediately called the Embassy to check that story out and was told that the story had no basis in fact; that the Embassy had not received such a phone call and that no Embassy officer had spoken to such a question. I have subsequently learned by cable that that is not a correct understanding of what actually took place.



(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Sincerely,

Diego C. Asencio

Enclosures:
1. Newspaper article.
2. Letters form Congresswoman Roukema.

CA/OCS/EMR:JLWard:le CA/OCS/EMR:RBLane

COPY Department of State

PAGE 01 SAN SA 00743 301849Z 1777

ACTION OCS-06

0134 E

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 ARA-16 /022 W

----------247410 302238Z /63

R 291911Z JAN 82 DELAY DUE SERVICE ACTION BY OC/T
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7652

WW

EXCISE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 0743

E. O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: CACS
SUBJECT: W/W JOHN J. SULLIVAN

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED LETTER FROM [redacted] (NO ADDRESS PROVIDED) IN WHICH HE STATES JOHN SULLIVAN MAY BE BURIED IN THE HOMES OF [redacted] OR [redacted] DID NOT PROVIDE EITHER WOMEN'S ADDRESS. 1-C B6

2. LETTER DESCRIBES THE TWO WOMEN AS LEFTISTS AND LINKS THEM TO THE GUERRILLAS IN EL SALVADOR AND TO CUBAN, PALESTINIAN AND LIBYAN TERRORISTS. ADDITIONALLY, IT CHARGES THE WOMEN ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE EASTERN BLOC.

3. THIS IS UNDOUBTEDLY A POISON PEN LETTER. [redacted] ARE UNKNOWN TO EMBASSY. LETTERS CHARGING INDIVIDUALS ARE COMMUNISTS OR TERRORISTS ARE OFTEN RECEIVED BY EMBASSY AND THEY ARE GENERALLY DISCARDED. 1-C B6

4. NO FOLLOW UP PLANNED ON OUR PART AS NO USEFUL INFORMATION PROVIDED. LETTER IS INTERESTING HOWEVER AS IT INDICATES SULLIVAN WAS KILLED BY LEFT.
HINTON

2/1/82 - Dan Jaeger and Donna Igoe informed. EM
Request Ltr from part for Mrs. Igoe.

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